

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

STAFF NOTE

Review Item:

Common Core Standards Work

Applicable Statute or Regulation:

KRS 158.6451, KRS 158.6453

History/Background:

Existing Policy. Senate Bill 1 calls upon the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE), in collaboration with the Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE), to plan and implement a comprehensive process for revising the academic content standards (Plan appears as Attachment A). The partners who will be included in this revision process are the CPE, KDE, Kentucky Board of Education (KBE), Education Professional Standards Board (EPSB), public postsecondary institution content faculty, teacher education faculty, public P-12 educators, national content advisory groups, Collaborative Center for Literacy Development, Kentucky Mathematics Center, Kentucky Science and Technology Center, and educational consortia. These partners will ensure revisions to the content standards meet the requirements stated within SB1 as described below:

- *Focus on critical knowledge, skills, and capacities needed for success in the global economy;*
- *Result in fewer, but more in-depth standards to facilitate mastery learning;*
- *Communicate expectations more clearly and concisely to teachers, parents, students, and citizens;*
- *Be based on evidence-based research;*
- *Consider international benchmarks; and*
- *Ensure that the standards are aligned from elementary to high school to postsecondary education so that students can be successful at each education level.*

The same work going on in Kentucky around standards revision is being discussed in many other states. Therefore, the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) and the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices have been working to create a state-led structure for the development and adoption of a common core of standards. On April 17, CCSSO brought together 40 interested states and shared the Obama administration's vision for the "Race to the Top" competitive funds and outlined the requirements of the request for proposal to apply for these funds.

As part of the national work around standards, states that want to be part of this work and be eligible for "Race to the Top" dollars were required to sign an MOA committing states to a state-led process that will use an evidence-based process and lead to the development and adoption of a common core of standards in English/language arts and mathematics for grades K-12. These standards will be aligned with college and work expectations, include rigorous content and skills, and be internationally benchmarked. The intent is that these standards will be aligned to state assessment and classroom practice. The MOA (Attachment B) outlines the benefits to states and the process and structure to be used in this work.

As you were apprised via email, the MOA required the signature of the chief state school officer and also the governor and had to be submitted to CCSSO by May 8. Interim Commissioner Farris signed the document and Secretary Mountjoy obtained the signature of the governor. The submission deadline was met.

This is a win/win situation that allows Kentucky to join together with a group of states to share the costs for this work, increase the chance of being eligible for "Race to the Top" dollars to support the work and provide access to national experts through the assistance of CCSSO and NGA for the development of the core standards. The approach will also allow Kentucky to meet the requirements of SB 1 relative to standards development.

At the retreat, KDE staff will discuss the comprehensive plan for standards development as well as the work that will occur as a result of the MOA with CCSSO.

Impact on Getting to Proficiency:

In order to prepare students for the 21st century, standards, instruction and then assessment need to be aligned to the content and skills students will need to compete at a high level in a global society. A focused set of clear and cognitively demanding standards is the first and most important building block to establish in order to move forward with changing the face of education in Kentucky.

Groups Consulted and Brief Summary of Responses:

CPE
EPSB
Kentucky ExEL districts (Boone, Daviess, Jefferson, Kenton)

These groups are supportive of this approach to developing the standards.

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Interim Deputy Commissioner

Interim Commissioner of Education

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